



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
2000 NAVY PENTAGON  
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OPNAVINST 5450.332  
N091  
21 Jun 02

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 5450.332

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: MISSION, FUNCTIONS AND TASKS OF COMMANDER, OPERATIONAL  
TEST AND EVALUATION FORCE (COMOPTEVFOR)

Ref: (a) 10 U.S.C. 2399  
(b) DOD Directive 5000.1 of 23 October 2000  
(c) U.S. Navy Regulations, Section 0311

Encl: (1) COMOPTEVFOR Functions and Tasks

1. Purpose. To delineate COMOPTEVFOR mission, functions and tasks as directed in references (a) and (b) and per reference (c).

2. Mission. COMOPTEVFOR shall test and evaluate weapon systems, ships, aircraft and equipment in the anticipated operational environment against the anticipated threat, employing typical operators and maintainers. Additionally, COMOPTEVFOR shall develop and validate procedures and tactics for employing these items, and when directed by the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), shall assist Developing Agencies (DAs) in the accomplishment of their Developmental Test and Evaluation (DT&E).

3. Status and Command Relationships. COMOPTEVFOR is an operational command under the direction of a Commander who reports directly to the CNO. The Commander has direct access to the CNO, CNO Staff and Fleet Commanders as necessary to carry out his assigned missions.

a. Command:

Echelon

- 1 - Chief of Naval Operations
- 2 - Commander, Operational Test and Evaluation Force

b. Area Coordination: Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic.

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4. Commanded, Tenant, Supported and Supporting Activities and Detachments.

a. COMOPTEVFOR is the Immediate Superior in Command of: Immediate Headquarters Staff, COMOPTEVFOR Detachment Norfolk, Virginia and COMOPTEVFOR Detachment Point Loma, California.

b. COMOPTEVFOR has Operational Control (OPCON) of aircraft squadrons conducting operational testing:

(1) Air Test and Evaluation Squadron ONE (VX-1), and VX-1 detachments, Atlantic Fleet. Administrative Control is provided by COMNAVAIRLANT.

(2) Air Test and Evaluation Squadron NINE (VX-9) and VX-9 detachments, Pacific Fleet. Administrative Control is provided by COMNAVAIRPAC.

c. COMOPTEVFOR will take OPCON of ships, aircraft and units provided by Fleet Commanders for testing of CNO-designated projects. Normally, submarines will not be assigned to COMOPTEVFOR, but will remain under OPCON of the appropriate submarine operational commander. Submarine services will be scheduled to support COMOPTEVFOR in the conduct of Test and Evaluation (T&E) Projects.

d. COMOPTEVFOR does not host any tenant activities.

e. COMOPTEVFOR supports:

(1) CNO, by providing recommendations for fleet release of new and improved systems and systems under development. This recommendation is based upon an evaluation of each system's effectiveness and suitability in achieving its operational requirements.

(2) Systems developers, by providing operational test support for new systems acquisition and improvements. This support may include identifying areas of risk where the system may not achieve its operational requirements and recommendations to proceed to the next acquisition milestone or program review.

(3) Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) for Joint Test and Evaluation programs.

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(4) OSD Advanced Concept Technology Demonstrations and Advanced Technology Demonstrations.

(5) United States Joint Forces Command Joint Experimentation.

(6) United States Navy Fleet Battle Experiments.

(7) OSD and U.S. Navy Science and Technology Initiatives.

(8) Other services and agencies in accomplishment of their testing and evaluation requirements.

f. COMOPTEVFOR receives support from:

(1) CNO, who through the Director, Test and Evaluation and Technology Requirements (CNO N091), provides direction regarding policy, priorities and technical and procedural guidance, as well as financial support for matters relating to the T&E program.

(2) Systems Commanders (COMNAVAIRSYSCOM, COMNAVSEASYSYSCOM and COMSPAWARSYSYSCOM), who provide financial support for early involvement by operational testers during program development. Early involvement is defined as support for any program-related activity (integrated product team participation, analysis, DT assists, etc.) that will not result in a fleet release recommendation by COMOPTEVFOR.

(3) Fleet Commanders in Chief, who provide ship, aircraft and units from their forces to conduct operational tests.

(4) Navy Shore Activities. To facilitate information exchange with shore units, direct liaison is authorized with Systems Commanders for technical matters relating to Research, Development Test and Evaluation (RDT&E) programs, with intelligence commands for matters relating to threat definition and with other shore activities that may support COMOPTEVFOR in accomplishment of the assigned mission.

(5) Other military services and government agencies, through liaison and information exchange with counterparts in

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other services and with other government agencies involved in RDT&E, including science and technology initiatives.

5. Action. COMOPTEVFOR will ensure performance of the functions and tasks contained in enclosure (1).

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Admiral, U.S. Navy  
Vice Chief of Naval Operations

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COMOPTEVFOR FUNCTIONS AND TASKS

Function. Carry out assigned responsibilities as the Navy's independent Operational Test and Evaluation (OT&E) agency under the command of CNO. Serve as a principal advisor to CNO on all Department of the Navy OT&E matters. These tasks are assigned:

1. Monitor RDT&E programs conducted within the operating forces and make recommendations to the CNO and Fleet Commanders to enhance RDT&E program effectiveness.
2. Establish early and continuing liaison with the DA to ensure mutual understanding of respective test requirements and plans. Participate in planning all phases of DT&E that may satisfy OT&E objectives and assist in the DT&E efforts. Monitor DT&E and comment on relevant OT&E issues.
3. Review acquisition program documentation to ensure documents are adequate to support a meaningful OT&E program and to provide resolution to critical operational issues. Report adequacy findings to CNO (N6/N7/N8/N091).
4. Plan, conduct and report on all OT&E assigned to Navy. Report on all OT&E directly to CNO/VCNO as appropriate.
5. Conduct Follow-on Operational Test and Evaluation to complete deferred testing, verify correction of deficiencies identified from previous testing and finish incomplete/waived testing. Test and evaluate hardware and software alterations that change system capability (operational effectiveness and suitability), including system upgrades.
6. Develop initial tactics and procedures for employment of new systems that undergo OT&E, or as directed by CNO, through liaison with Commander, Naval Strike Air Warfare Center and Commander, Surface Warfare Development Group.
7. Ensure Operations Security requirements are met during all OT&E functions.
8. Act as CNO's agent for coordination and scheduling of fleet services in support of RDT&E and Operational Test and Evaluation programs.

9. Monitor and report on other T&E efforts directed by CNO.
10. Provide recommendations to the CNO for the development of new capabilities or the upgrade of Navy ranges, test facilities, simulators and other assets used for OT&E.